

**CLEAN VERSION OF ENTIRE SET OF PENDING CLAIMS**  
**SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3)**  
**IN RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF 15 MARCH 2002**

**CLAIMS**

1. (Amended) An article to be worn about a wearer comprising:  
a surface fastening system having a primary direction of load bearing, the surface fastening system including a first surface fastening element and a second surface fastening element, the first fastening element being joined to the article, the second fastening element being disposed so as to be generally in a face to face relationship with the first fastening element when the surface fastening system is in a fastened configuration, the surface fastening system further including an effective dimension Y extending substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the article, the effective dimension Y increasing from a laterally outboard edge of the first fastening element to a laterally inboard edge of the first fastening element,  
wherein the surface fastening system has a peak load in the primary direction of load bearing that is less than a peak load in the direction other than the primary direction of load bearing.

27. (Amended) The article of Claim 1 wherein the first fastening element further a longitudinally inboard edge, the longitudinally inboard edge being longer than the laterally outboard edge.

34. (Amended) The article of Claim 1, wherein the first fastening element further includes a longitudinally inboard edge and a longitudinally outboard edge, the longitudinally inboard edge being longer than the longitudinally outboard edge.

9. The article of Claim 1, wherein the first fastening element further includes a longitudinally inboard edge having at least a portion of the longitudinally inboard edge being unjoined from the article.

512. (Amended) The article of Claim 1, wherein the peak load in the direction other than the primary direction of load bearing is selected from one of the group of greater than about 1000 grams, greater than about 1300 grams, greater than about 1600 grams, and greater than about 2000 grams.

6 13.

(Amended) The article of Claim 1, wherein the peak load of the fastening system in the primary direction of load bearing is selected from one of the group of less than or equal to about 1000 grams, less than or equal to about 750 grams, and less than or equal to about 500 grams.

C 14.

The article of Claim 1, further comprising a chassis including an absorbent member.

B 8 15.

(Amended) The article of Claim 1, wherein the article is selected from one of the group of an absorbent article, a diaper, a sanitary napkin, and a body wrap.

B 9 15.

(Amended) The article of Claim 1, wherein the article is adapted to form a pant-like article and wherein each of the first and second fastening elements are releasably attached to form a waist opening and a pair of leg openings.

New claims:

10 16.

(New) An article to be worn about a wearer comprising:

a surface fastening system having a primary direction of load bearing, the surface fastening system including a first surface fastening element and a second surface fastening element, the first fastening element being joined to the article, the second fastening element being disposed so as to be generally in a face to face relationship with the first fastening element when the surface fastening system is in a fastened configuration, the surface fastening system further including an effective dimension X extending substantially parallel to a lateral axis of the article, the effective dimension X changing between a longitudinally inboard edge of the first fastening element and a longitudinally outboard edge of the first fastening element, wherein the surface fastening system has a peak load in the primary direction of load bearing that is less than a peak load in the direction other than the primary direction of load bearing.

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11 20.

(New) The article of Claim 19, wherein the first fastening element further includes a laterally outboard edge, the longitudinally inboard edge being longer than the laterally outboard edge.

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12 21.

(New) The article of Claim 19, wherein the longitudinally inboard edge is longer than the longitudinally outboard edge.

13 22. (New) The article of Claim 19, wherein at least a portion of the longitudinally inboard edge is unjoined from the article. <sup>10</sup>

14 23. (New) The article of Claim 19, wherein the peak load in the direction other than the primary direction of load bearing is selected from more of the group of greater or equal to about 1000 grams, greater than or equal to about 1300 grams, greater than or equal to about 1600 grams, and greater than or equal to about 2000 grams. <sup>10</sup>

15 24. (New) The article of Claim 19, wherein the peak load of the fastening system in the primary direction of load bearing is selected from one of the group of less than about 1000 grams, less than about 750 grams, and less than about 500 grams. <sup>10</sup>

16 25. (New) The article of Claim 19, further comprising a chassis including an absorbent member. <sup>10</sup>

17 26. (New) The article of Claim 19, wherein the article is selected from one of the group of an absorbent article, a diaper, a sanitary napkin, and a body wrap. <sup>10</sup>

18 27. (New) The article of Claim 19, wherein the first fastening element includes a hinge. <sup>10</sup>

19 28. (New) The article of Claim 19, wherein the article is adapted to form a pant-like article and each of the first and second fastening elements are releasably attached to form a waist opening and a pair of leg opening. <sup>10</sup>

20 29. (New) An article to be worn about a wearer comprising:  
a surface fastening system having a primary direction of load bearing, the surface fastening system including a first surface fastening element and a second surface fastening element, the first fastening element being joined to the article, the second fastening element being disposed so as to be generally in a face to face relationship with the first fastening element when the surface fastening system is in a fastened configuration,  
wherein the first fastening element further includes a longitudinally inboard edge having at least a portion of the longitudinally inboard edge being unjoined from the article, and  
wherein the surface fastening system has a peak load in the primary direction of load bearing that is less than a peak load in the direction other than the primary direction of load bearing.

21 30. (New) The article of Claim 29, wherein the first fastening element further includes a laterally outboard edge, the longitudinally inboard edge being longer than the laterally outboard edge. 20

22 31. (New) The article of Claim 29, wherein the longitudinally inboard edge is longer than the longitudinally outboard edge. 20

23 32. (New) The article of Claim 29, wherein the peak load in the direction other than the primary direction of load bearing is selected from more of the group of greater or equal to about 1000 grams, greater than or equal to about 1300 grams, greater than or equal to about 1600 grams, and greater than or equal to about 2000 grams. 20

24 33. (New) The article of Claim 29, wherein the peak load of the fastening system in the primary direction of load bearing is selected from one of the group of less than about 1000 grams, less than about 750 grams, and less than about 500 grams. 20

25 34. (New) The article of Claim 29, further comprising a chassis including an absorbent member. 20

26 35. (New) The article of Claim 29, wherein the article is selected from one of the group of an absorbent article, a diaper, a sanitary napkin, and a body wrap. 20

27 36. (New) The article of Claim 29, wherein the first fastening element includes a hinge. 20

28 37. (New) The article of Claim 29, wherein the article is adapted to form a pant-like article and each of the first and second fastening elements are releasably attached to form a waist opening and a pair of leg opening.